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Waukegan North Harbor has been named in a fishing consumption advisory issued by Illinois health officials who found high levels of PCB contaminants in white suckers and sunfish.

The Illinois Department of Public Health listed the Lake Michigan harbor as one of 15 waterways statewide where mercury and other contaminants have been detected in fish.

The advisory recommends that consumers limit eating white sucker and sunfish from Waukegan North Harbor to one meal per month. Dr. Eric E. Whitaker, state public health director, said in a written statement that there is no known immediate health threat from eating contaminated fish but that "there are concerns about the effects of long-term, low-level exposure to pesticides and chemicals, such as chlordane, PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), and methylmercury."

The advisory applies only to the harbor's north end, said Melaney Arnold, Public Health Department spokeswoman.

U.S. Rep Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) said the advisory underscores the need to clean up Waukegan Harbor. As much as \$17.5 million of the projected \$20 million cost is expected to be provided by the federal Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency within two years if the city pays the remainder, he said.

"We have a growing sports fishing industry in Waukegan," said Kirk, who is organizing an April summit to discuss the plan. Besides helping improve the safety of fish consumption, the cleanup will result in a "great uptick in economic development for the area."

The advisory is especially geared to the most vulnerable consumers, including women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children younger than 15.

The complete advisory, issued annually since 1976, may be viewed at the Department of Public Health's Web site at <http://www.idph.state.il.us/> .

This is not the first time Waukegan North Harbor has made the state's warning list. Until 1997, the state advised consumers against eating any fish out of the harbor, Arnold said. Waukegan Harbor is a federal Superfund site because of PCB contamination from Outboard Marine Corp. Workers removed tons of contaminated sediment from the harbor in 1993, but more remained at the bottom.